

**Amendment to the Claims**

1-25. (cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting membrane fusion between HIV and a target cell that expresses CCR5 or between an HIV-infected cell and a CD4 positive uninfected cell that expresses CCR5, comprising contacting the target or CD4 positive cell with a fusion-inhibiting effective amount of a CCR5 binding or blocking agent, wherein the binding or blocking agent comprises a peptide corresponding to an extracellular loop of CCR5, wherein the peptide corresponding to the extracellular loop of CCR5 comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5, 6 or 7.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting membrane fusion between HIV and a target cell that expresses CCR5 or between an HIV-infected cell and a CD4 positive uninfected cell that expresses CCR5, comprising contacting the target or CD4 positive cell with a fusion-inhibiting effective amount of a CCR5 binding or blocking agent, wherein the binding or blocking agent comprises a peptide corresponding to an extracellular loop of CCR5, wherein the peptide corresponding to the extracellular loop of CCR5 consists of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5, 6 or 7.

28-30. (cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the peptide corresponding to the extracellular loop of CCR5 comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the peptide corresponding to the extracellular loop of CCR5 comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the peptide corresponding to the extracellular loop of CCR5 comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 7.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the peptide corresponding to the extracellular loop of CCR5 consists of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the peptide corresponding to the extracellular loop of CCR5 consists of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the peptide corresponding to the extracellular loop of CCR5 consists of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 7.